

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, and 5-11 have been amended. Claims 3, 4, and 12 have been cancelled. New claims 13 and 14 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Allowable subject matter

Applicants that the Examiner for finding that claims 4-8 and 12 have allowable subject matter and would be allowable if written in independent form. Claims 3-4 have been cancelled and incorporated into claim 1. Claim 12 has been cancelled and incorporated into claim 9.

Objections to the specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification because of informalities. Applicants have amended the specification to correct the informalities. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objections to the specification.

35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 Rejections

The Examiner has objected to claims 1-12 as being indefinite. Applicants have removed the word beard and replaced "it" and "their" in the claims to cure the indefiniteness. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 rejections.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 4 for informalities. Applicants have cancelled claim 4, thus rendering the objection moot.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections.

Claims 1-3 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over FR 2730958 (Metroz) in view of US Patent 4,877,285 (Huyer), or alternatively, to Metroz alone. Applicants respectfully disagree. However, in order to advance prosecution, Applicants have

amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the features of now cancelled claims 3 and 4, which the Examiner has stated would be allowable if written in independent form. Applicants reserve the right to pursue original claim 1 in a continuation application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow claim 1.

Independent claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the features of now cancelled claim 12, which the Examiner stated would be allowable if written in independent form. Applicants similarly reserve the right to pursue the claims in a continuation application. Applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow claim 9.

Claims 2, 5-8, 10, 11 and new claims 13 and 14 are all variously dependent on independent claims 1 and 9, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons given for the independent claims. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and allow claims 2, 5-8, 10, 11, 13, and 14.

Conclusion

Based on the arguments presented, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance.

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, objection, issue, or comment, including the Office Action's characterizations of the references, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment or cancellation of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment or cancellation.


No fee is believed due, however, please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Applicant : Queveau et al
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Filed : May 31, 2006
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Attorney's Docket No.: 20233-003US1 / RVL/BR
61533 US 06017

Date: 11/13/07

Respectfully submitted,



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